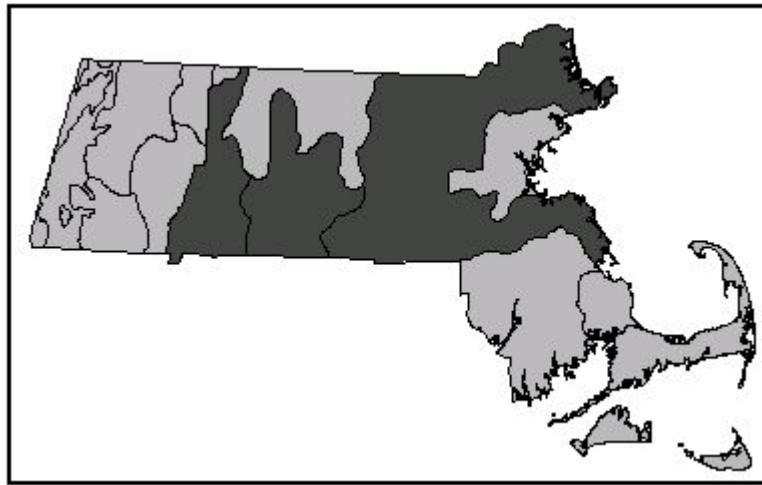


Community Name: LOW-ENERGY RIVERBANK
Community ELCODE: CP2A0B2300
SRANK: S4



Concept: Open herbaceous/graminoid communities occurring on sandy or silty mineral soils of river and streambanks that do not experience severe flooding or ice scour.

Environmental setting: Low-energy rivers are smaller, low-gradient rivers that do not experience severe flooding. The riverbanks are generally sandy or silty. They lack the cobble substrate of high-energy areas and the muddy soils of open mud flats. These communities occur on mineral soil rather than the peaty or mucky soil that characterizes alluvial marshes and wet meadows. More information is needed.

Vegetation Description: The species composition is variable but the structure is always an open mixture of herbaceous and graminoid species with occasional scattered shrubs and trees at the inland margin. Common species are reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), which can be dominant, cocksbur-grass (*Echinochloa muricata*), fall panic-grass (*Panicum dichotomiflorum*), rice cut-grass (*Leersia oryzoides*), Canada bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis* var. *canadensis*), St. John's-wort (*Hypericum* spp.), smartweeds (*Polygonum* spp.), and various goldenrod species (*Solidago* spp.). Species typical of disturbed areas, such as cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium* var. *canadense*) are common in both high and low-energy riverbank communities. Low-energy riverbanks are more sparsely vegetated than marshes and wet meadows.

Associations: No associations have been described in Massachusetts.

Habitat values for Associated Fauna: Can provide turtle nesting habitat, and can be used by riverine odonates

Associated rare plants:

NONE KNOWN

Associated rare animals:

CLEMMYS INSCULPTA	WOOD TURTLE	SC
GOMPHUS FRATERNUS	MIDLAND CLUBTAIL	E
GOMPHUS VASTUS	COBRA CLUBTAIL	SC
GOMPHUS VENTRICOSUS	SKILLET CLUBTAIL	SC
NEUROCORDULIA OBSOLETA	UMBER SHADOWDRAGON	SC
OPHIOMPHUS ASPERSUS	BROOK SNAKETAILED	SC
OPHIOMPHUS CAROLUS	RIFFLE SNAKETAILED	T
SOMATOCHLORA CINGULATA	LAKE EMERALD	SC

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SOMATOCHLORA ELONGATA	SKI-TAILED EMERALD	SC
SOMATOCHLORA GEORGIANA	COPPERY EMERALD	E
SOMATOCHLORA KENNEDYI	KENNEDY'S EMERALD	E
SOMATOCHLORA LINEARIS	MOCHA EMERALD	SC
STYLURUS AMNICOLA	RIVERINE CLUBTAIL	E
STYLURUS SCUDDERI	ZEBRA CLUBTAIL	E
STYLURUS SPINICEPS	A CLUBTAIL DRAGONFLY	T

**Examples with
Public Access:**

Banks of the Nashua River in Ft. Devens.

Threats:

Invasion by non-native plant species is the greatest threat to the community.

Management needs:

Non-native plant species removal.

Synonyms

USNVC/TNC:

Includes Calamagrostis canadensis – Phalaris arundinacea Herbaceous Alliance [CEGL005174], and Phalaris arundinacea Eastern Herbaceous Vegetation. [CEGL006335].

MA [old name]:

SNE low-energy riverbank community [CT1E2B1000].

ME:

Includes 2001 – Bluejoint Meadow.

VT:

Similar to Rivershore grassland.

NH:

Similar to Riverside meadow community.

NY:

Not described.

CT:

?

RI:

Not described.

Golet & Larson, 1974:

Other:

Author:

J. Kearsley

Date:

7/21/99